

THE TESTIMONY OF OUR CONSCIENCE

2 Cor. 1:12

2 Cor 1:12 *Our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience*

Here is what we are excited about. We can declare to you that in every situation we have maintained a good conscience.

Testimony: evidence, witness, proof, confirmation, verification, authentication validation.

Conscience: suneyde sis: with comprehension; with knowledge.

Wiersbe: *That inner faculty that "knows with" our spirit and approves when we do right, but accuses when we do wrong. Conscience is not the Law of God, but it bears witness to that Law. It is the window that lets in the light: and if the window gets dirty because we disobey, then the light becomes dimmer and dimmer.*

Rom 2:15 God has given the Gentiles the inner alarm system that goes off when they violate the law of God. Their minds will either say, "You messed up. You sinned. You did wrong. You are guilty." or "Great job! You did right! You are innocent."

Conscience

Place of conviction. Jn.8:9

Requires exercise. Acts 24:16

Weak or emboldened. I Cor. 8:10

Wounded. I Cor.8:12

Sometimes we don't ask questions because of our conscience. I Cor.10:25

Refrain from doing certain things because it might defile another's conscience. I Cor.10:28

End of commandment. 1 Tim 1:5

Shipwreck faith .I Tim.1:19,20

Seared. I Tim. 4:2

The blood of Christ purges. Heb.9:14

Good. Heb 13:18

Boldness. I Pet.3:16

Lenski: ... that in us which holds us to a norm of right and damns us when we violate that norm.

Mt. Hen: God's deputy in the soul, and the voice of conscience is the voice of God. **Dictionary:**

The awareness of a moral or ethical aspect to one's conduct together with the urge to prefer right over wrong... Amer. Her. Dict.

Clear conscience: *That inner freedom of the spirit and the assurance from knowing that people see you as you really are and knowing that not one person is able to point a finger at you and accuse you of wrong doing toward him that you've never made right..IBLP*

Clear Conscience:

1. Victory over sin 1 Tim. 1:18-20
2. Ability to stand... 1 Pet 3:15-16
3. Mighty in spirit...sharpness... Heb 5:11-14
4. Requires constant attention. Acts 24:16

Four evidences of lifestyle with a good conscience

- 1. Simplicity:** without hypocrisy or self-seeking; singleness of heart; simple, uncombined; pure motives
- 2. Godly sincerity** Clearness, purity; genuine, honest; not 2-faced. Without wax. Phil 1:10
- 3. No fleshly wisdom**

Hodge: Fleshly wisdom: *guided by principles of self-interest or expediency.*

Fleshly: animal, unregenerate; not spiritual; worldly

Rom 8:5-8; Rom 7:18, 25; 8:13; 13:14; Gal 5:16

4. Grace

The supernatural desire and energizing power to do the will of God."

The dynamic force of the living God that enables me to follow every prompting of God's Spirit and live in harmony and obedience to every command of God's Word.

Ja.4:6

SO WHAT?

Do we have the testimony/validation of our conscience?

Evidenced in our behavior by

1. Simplicity: pure motives; no hiding.; plain; straightforward
2. Godly sincerity: no hypocrisy
3. No fleshly wisdom: Spirit-Filled
4. Grace: supernatural desire and energizing power